

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 944

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## AN ACT

To reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2   *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. COMPETITIVE AWARDS.**

2 Section 320(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Con-  
3 trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(g)) is amended by adding at the  
4 end the following:

5 “(4) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Using the amounts  
7 made available under subsection (i)(2)(B), the  
8 Administrator shall make competitive awards  
9 under this paragraph.

10 “(B) APPLICATION FOR AWARDS.—The  
11 Administrator shall solicit applications for  
12 awards under this paragraph from State, inter-  
13 state, and regional water pollution control agen-  
14 cies and entities, State coastal zone manage-  
15 ment agencies, interstate agencies, other public  
16 or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, orga-  
17 nizations, and individuals.

18 “(C) SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS.—In se-  
19 lecting award recipients under this paragraph,  
20 the Administrator shall select recipients that  
21 are best able to address urgent and challenging  
22 issues that threaten the ecological and economic  
23 well-being of coastal areas. Such issues shall in-  
24 clude—

1 “(i) extensive seagrass habitat losses  
2 resulting in significant impacts on fisheries  
3 and water quality;

4 “(ii) recurring harmful algae blooms;

5 “(iii) unusual marine mammal mor-  
6 talities;

7 “(iv) invasive exotic species that may  
8 threaten wastewater systems and cause  
9 other damage;

10 “(v) jellyfish proliferation limiting  
11 community access to water during peak  
12 tourism seasons;

13 “(vi) flooding that may be related to  
14 sea level rise or wetland degradation or  
15 loss; and

16 “(vii) low dissolved oxygen conditions  
17 in estuarine waters and related nutrient  
18 management.”.

19 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 Section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control  
21 Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) is amended by striking subsection  
22 (i) and inserting the following:

23 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
2       appropriated to the Administrator \$27,000,000 for  
3       each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 for—

4           “(A) expenses relating to the administra-  
5       tion of grants or awards by the Administrator  
6       under this section, including the award and  
7       oversight of grants and awards, except that  
8       such expenses may not exceed 5 percent of the  
9       amount appropriated under this subsection for  
10      a fiscal year; and

11          “(B) making grants and awards under  
12      subsection (g).

13          “(2) ALLOCATIONS.—

14          “(A) CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT  
15      PLANS.—Not less than 80 percent of the  
16      amount made available under this subsection  
17      for a fiscal year shall be used by the Adminis-  
18      trator for the development, implementation, and  
19      monitoring of each of the conservation and  
20      management plans eligible for grant assistance  
21      under subsection (g)(2).

22          “(B) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—Not less  
23      than 15 percent of the amount made available  
24      under this subsection for a fiscal year shall be

- 1           used by the Administrator for making competi-
- 2           tive awards described in subsection (g)(4).”.

Passed the House of Representatives June 1, 2015.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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